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cargo. There were inspected and passed 90 second cabin and 146 steerage passengers and 40 pieces of large and 165 pieces of small luggage. One steerage passenger was rejected for trachoma. During the week I have disinfected 8 pieces of luggage, made up of old bedding, pillows, and feathers.

Respectfully,

W. C. HOBDY,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

FRANCE.

Report from Marseilles.

MARSEILLES, FRANCE, *January 27, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of transactions at this port for the week ended January 27, 1900:

Only 1 vessel, the French steamer *Neustria*, of the Cyprien Fabre Line, has cleared from this port during the week bound for the United States. This vessel carried a general cargo of merchandise but no passengers and was in very good sanitary condition. * * *

The smallpox epidemic is now on the decline and the number of cases is very much lessened; there are still, however, about 200 cases in the municipal hospital here but a large number of them are now convalescent. There are of course many cases which are not reported at all and therefore it is impossible to say with any degree of accuracy just how many cases there are at present in the city.

Respectfully,

G. M. CORPUT,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

GERMANY.

Report from Bremen.

BREMEN, *January 29, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of affairs at the port of Bremen:

On my arrival here, in the latter part of December, I found Vice-Consul Murphy in charge at the consulate, and he was most willing to cooperate with me in carrying out the quarantine regulations as they pertain to foreign ports. He had already, by his own efforts, improved the methods in operation at this port, and with suggestions from Dr. Wasdin, on his inspecting tour, still more was accomplished in this line.

I found Dr. Peltzer employed in the inspection of emigrants, as he has been since 1892, but his attention is more directed to the exclusion of passengers under the immigration laws than the enforcement of the quarantine regulations. With the assistance of the ships' surgeons, he vaccinates all emigrants, whether they show marks of successful vaccination or not, or have evidence of a genuine attack of smallpox. My opinion of this part of the work, as conducted by Dr. Peltzer, coincides with the opinion expressed in the report of Dr. Wasdin, that it is done in a careful and painstaking manner.

As regards the disinfection of baggage I found the condition very unsatisfactory. In the first place the steam chamber is of very diminu-

tive proportions—far too small for a port that embarks nearly 100,000 emigrants annually to America. The selection of baggage requiring disinfection was left entirely to the judgment of an ignorant employee of the steamship company, who not only had no personal interest in the matter, but was concerned in doing as little work as possible.

Naturally, very few pieces were selected as requiring disinfection. Knowing, as I do, the absolute inefficiency of the methods of the disinfection, it is just as well that so few pieces of baggage were placed in the steam chamber. One-half hour was deemed sufficient for the entire process of disinfection. With the number of leaks in the steam pipes, I am sure the required temperature of 100° C. was never once attained. The chamber contained no exhaust pump for withdrawing the air before the introduction of the steam, and later for exhausting the steam, to facilitate drying.

I am glad to be able to report that the exhaust pipe is now attached, which was Dr. Wasdin's suggestion, so the chamber is in a condition to do fairly efficient work, though it still falls short of a plant at one of our national quarantine stations. Its small size will always lessen its usefulness for the purposes intended. The Lloyd Steamship Company promises a larger plant when their new hall is completed, about two years hence.

I have had some hesitation in deciding what to select for disinfection, it being impossible to decide accurately the sanitary condition of the emigrant's home, and also impracticable to disinfect everything. In my judgment the bedding, which comes through in large quantities, is most likely to carry infection, for obvious reasons, though not necessarily all the infection. The personal clothing is largely wash clothing, as shirts, dresses, etc., and is contained in pasteboard valises. In this way there is some exposure to air en route, which somewhat lessens its infectiousness. Such a small proportion of emigrants come from a district known to be healthy, that I disinfect all bedding, and whatever personal clothing that seems specially to require it. Some of the baggage has the label of German disinfection on the Russian frontier, but in the absence of positive information as to the efficiency of their work, all is redisinfecting. This does not constitute more than 10 per cent of the baggage. About 80 per cent of the emigrants come from the provinces of Austria, principally from Hungary and Galicia. The latter province, according to a recent report in the London Lancet, contains many cases of smallpox on account of the strong prejudice existing against vaccination. The same report states that about four thousand cases of typhus occurred in the different provinces of Austria during the last fiscal year. As there is no safeguard, such as vaccination against this very dangerous and contagious disease, it seems to me that typhus is a disease especially to be guarded against.

The fact that neither Portuguese nor Spanish emigrants pass through this port lessens very much our danger from plague.

There is a possible danger of plague reaching Bremen by rice ships, which come in considerable number from India and Siam. The rice is brought here in the husk to be threshed and cleaned, and some is then reshipped to America. They claim that rice is only brought from the healthy districts of India; but the infection is so general that I hardly see how they can speak with confidence on the subject. If Dr. Irwin's suggestion as to the possible infection of Oporto by rice is correct, Bremen is not free from danger from this source. The process the rice passes through here, in my judgment, removes all possible danger of

the rice that is reshipped to America being infectious. Should plague appear in the vicinity of Bremen, the health authorities are fully competent to cope with it.

I respectfully request information from the Bureau in regard to the German frontier disinfection if it is considered sufficient.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Hamburg.

HAMBURG, January 29, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report for the week ended January 27:

The steamship *Patricia*, of the Hamburg-American Line, sailed on Sunday, January 21, carrying 428 steerage passengers. For these passengers 249 pieces of baggage were inspected and 91 were disinfected. In my reports of baggage inspected and disinfected, the number of pieces inspected does not include those reported disinfected, but each is reported according to the number of red or yellow labels used.

The steamship *Graf Waldersee* was inspected with reference to the accommodations for steerage passengers on Friday, January 26, preparatory to her sailing on the following Sunday.

Bills of health were issued to 10 vessels, of which 7 carried cargo.

The latest issue of the "Veröffentlichungen des Kaiserlichen Gesundheitsamtes" (Berlin) contains an item from Hamburg to the effect that by an order of the senate, dated December 13, 1899, a treatise on plague was sent to all physicians and at the same time all physicians were forbidden to experiment or work with the plague bacillus, especially to inoculate animals.

As mentioned in other letters, I am at present too much confined to the office by the necessary work there to make the outside investigations in regard to quarantine methods here which I intend to make.

Respectfully,

A. C. SMITH,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Plague in Honolulu—Fire in Chinese quarter.

UNITED STATES MILITARY HOSPITAL,

Honolulu, H. I., January 22, 1900.

SIR: With reference to the plague, I have the honor to report that up to date there have been 46 cases with 40 deaths. The whole town has been districted, and each house is inspected twice a day with reference to keeping track of the inhabitants, discovering cases of disease and enforcing sanitary measures. On the 20th instant, while burning a part of Chinatown, the fire got away and destroyed nearly the whole of the district, rendering almost 4,000 Asiatics and natives homeless. These people are now corralled in different places under guard and are being fed at public expense. It is feared, however, that many of them got away in the confusion, with such of their household goods as they could carry, and may spread the infection far and wide.